

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 191724Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8114

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS BONN 02833

GENEVA PASS MTN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, GW

SUBJECT: STANDARDS HARMONIZATION: OPTIMUM METRIC
FASTENER SYSTEM (OMFS)

1. FRG INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS ARE EXPRESSING GROWING
CONCERN ABOUT INCOMPATIBILITY OF OPTIMUM METRIC
FASTENER SYSTEM (OMFS) BEING INTRODUCED IN US WITH
ISO STANDARDS FOR THREADS FOR NUTS AND BOLTS. OMFS
STANDARDS PROVIDE FOR MORE SHALLOW DEPTH OF THREAD
AND A MORE LIMITED NUMBER OF COMBINATIONS OF THREAD
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PITCHES AND DIAMETERS THAN ISO STANDARDS. THE GERMAN

MACHINE-BUILDING ASSOCIATION AND THE GERMAN PRECISION TOOL ASSOCIATION IN PARTICULAR HAVE RAISED ISSUE WITH EMBASSY AND FRANKFURT CONGEN. AT A TIME WHEN US IS MOVING TOWARD ADOPTION OF METRIC STANDARDS, THEY SEE LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR ADOPTION OF STANDARDS WHICH THEY CONTEND ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THOSE NOW IN USE IN EUROPE.

2. THE GERMAN FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES HAS REQUESTED THE FRG ECONOMICS MINISTRY TO TAKE UP THIS ISSUE WITH USG, EITHER BILATERALLY OR VIA EC. THE FEDERATION HAS ALSO REQUESTED THE GERMAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK TO LOOK INTO THIS PROBLEM, AND IN PARTICULAR TO DETERMINE THE PRESENT STATUS OF OMFS. THERE IS SOME UNCERTAINTY WITHIN GERMAN FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES AS TO WHETHER OMFS IS STILL ONLY A PROPOSAL OR WHETHER IT IS BEING PUT INTO EFFECT.

3. THE GERMAN MACHINE-BUILDING ASSOCIATION IS LAUNCHING A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO THWART THE INTRODUCTION OF OMFS. ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS REFER TO IT AS AN NTB; AND AN ASSOCIATION SPOKESMAN SHARPLY CRITICIZED IT AS A TECHNICAL OBSTACLE TO STANDARDIZATION THE SOLE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO PROTECT US INDUSTRY'S COMPETITIVE TRADE POSITION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE SADDLED WITH EXPENSIVE RETOOLING COSTS SPARED EUROPEAN INDUSTRY. THE SPOKESMAN STATED THAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS URGED FRG TO APPLY ALL POSSIBLE PRESSURE IN GATT NEGOTIATIONS TO PREVENT OMFS INTRODUCTION.

4. DURING PAST WEEK THIS PROBLEM HAS ALSO SURFACED IN PRESS, WITH LENGTHY ARTICLES IN FEBRUARY 12 FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE AND FEBRUARY 19 HANDELSBLATT. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE NOTED THAT ISO STANDARDS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY ACCEPTED ELSEWHERE, AND EVEN IN THE US, IN THE CASE OF NASA AND US AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, AND ASSERTED THAT THIS WORLDWIDE STANDARDIZATION PROCESS IS BEING UNDERMINED BY INTRODUCTION OF OMFS.

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5. HANDELSBLATT REPORTED THAT OMFS HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIMES IN ISO MEETINGS, WHERE IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT CERTAIN CHANGES IN ISO STANDARDS COULD BE MADE IN ACCORD WITH US WISHES, FOR EXAMPLE, BY MAKING A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS OF THREAD PITCHES AND DIAMETERS. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO HANDELSBLATT, CHANGES IN ISO SPECIFICATIONS FOR THREADS TO ACCORD WITH OMFS

STANDARDS HAVE NOT BEEN POSSIBLE. HANDELSBLATT
DESCRIBED US ADOPTION OF OMFS AS A DANGER TO GOAL
OF BREAKING DOWN TRADE BARRIERS.
HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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